

AN EFFICIENT METHOD FOR COLLECTING STATISTICS VIA A HALF-DUPLEX SERIAL BUS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system controller on a half-duplex communication bus architecture gathers statistical data from at least one line card. The line card automatically collects statistical data for the system controller in a controlled manner in an information buffer. Then, the line card reports a subset of the statistical data in the buffer to the system controller when polled either for the statistical data or for some other reason and the statistical data is selected to be reported. The line card reports the statistical data in place of reporting a null response in the preferred embodiment whenever possible.